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Breaking News

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Government leaders react with anger

California political leaders reacted with anger at Tuesday's East Coast terrorist attacks while urging caution.

"This is an act of war against the United States," said Sen. Dianne Feinstein. "Any country or other entity who would harbor the terrorists responsible for this tragedy is an enemy of the United States and we must respond militarily."

Sen. Feinstein, who chairs the Senate's Terrorism and Technology Committee, said she is "convinced that the need for homeland defense and homeland security must be our nation's number one priority."

"The horrible events this morning were an act of war against this country, an act of unspeakable evil directed against innocent civilians," said Gov. Gray Davis. "I ask all of my fellow Californians to remain calm and to pray for the victims and their loved ones. May God be with them."

"This cowardly attack on the United States of America will bring forth the full response of American forces," said U.S. Rep. Zoe Lofgren of San Jose. "What America's enemies fail to understand is that America, and the American people, are strong enough to withstand any Attack. Our country and our American democracy cannot be extinguished."

"We are all one American family and today's terrible attacks have a profound affect on each and every one of us," said California Secretary of State Bill Jones.

Saying he was "shocked and horrified" at the "horrendous events," San Jose Mayor Ron Gonzales urged residents not to make assumptions about who might be responsible.

"We learned from the Oklahoma City bombing the first inclination is not necessarily correct," Mr. Gonzales said. "We need to leave that to the federal government."

U.S. Rep. Mike Honda of San Jose watched in horror as the tragic events unfolded on television.

"My first thought was disbelief," he said. "It looked like those movies that we see. It's taking fiction into the realm of nonfiction."

Mr. Honda, who as a Japanese-American youth during World War II was held in a detention camp, also urged

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"Caution is the watchword now," he said. "It's important that citizens don't act against other citizens because of what they look like. We don't want panic."



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